



December 29, 2017

Mr. Dan Dallas
Rio Grande National Forest
1803 W. Highway 160
Monte Vista, CO. 81144

Dear Mr. Dallas:

On behalf of Satterwhite Log Homes, we wish to support the Intermountain Forest Association (IFA) comment letter on the Draft Rio Grande NF Revised Lane Management Plan (Plan) and Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) in its entirety, as well as the Species of Conservation Concern spreadsheet attachment.

Satterwhite Log Homes has been in business since 1974, with operations in Utah, Texas, Georgia, and more recently Chama, NM. We utilize high-quality dead Engelmann spruce trees as rustic timbers, beams, posts, round stocks, railings and other structural members. For all our 43 plus years we have depended upon beetle-killed spruce from Regions 2,3 & 4, and now with our operation in Chama, we are relying significantly on wood from the Rio Grande National Forest. We anticipate needing 4 million or more board feet per year of high quality salvage in the upcoming years.

Given that, we would like to emphasize the following on the draft Plan and DEIS:

- We support Alternative C, as I feel it is the best alternative in teams of actively managing the forest, protecting local jobs, and ensuring there is a forest in the future. Alternative C not only salvages more acres in the first 6 years, but also proposes to treat the most acres in the second decade. With an estimated sustained yield of 73,749 ccf per year, we feel the treatment numbers within Alternative C are very conservative. Ideally, the RGNF should be maximizing salvage in the next 3-5 years, before the wood deteriorates and is no longer useable. Alternative C also proposes zero acres of new wilderness, maintaining the flexibility to respond to events such as wildfire, insects and disease, drought, and climate change. Alternative C shows the greatest movement toward achieving desired conditions and Alternative C has the greatest

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economic impact of the three alternatives, as well as the highest number of associated jobs. Given this, we recommend Alternative C as the proposed action, with the caveat that salvage not be limited to just the first six years.

- We are very concerned that as written, none of the Alternatives propose any salvage volume in the second decade. As discussed above, Satterwhite Log Homes relies significantly on salvage volume from the RGNF. There will always be dead and dying trees in the forest and we recommend you always actively salvage this material.
- Lastly, we are concerned with the amount of future timber harvest and the cumulative operation restrictions that have been built into the draft plan. Many of the Desired Conditions, Objectives, and Management Approaches will likely further reduce the amount of treatment acres that can be implemented. For instance, we need the flexibility to work nearly year-round and some of the newly proposed Guidelines and Management Approaches such as G-WLDF – 1 has severe timing restrictions. With many of the timber sales already being on the verge of economic infeasibility, we are concerned that additional requirements that are above and beyond existing standards will further reduce sale viability. We recommend removing any additional requirements that are not required by law.

Thank you for your consideration. We would welcome the opportunity to work with you, your staff, and other stakeholders on the details of the revised Plan.

Sincerely,



Sam Satterwhite
President
Satterwhite Log Homes

